



McCormick Deering drill bought at Kessel & Fink on February 21, 1927 cost only \$215. Above photo, taken in 1929, shows the proud buyer, Jacob Woeszner. At right is the sales slip for the drill.

LIFE - GIVING SEED

KESSEL & FINK
Farm Implements of all Kinds, Trucks
Tractors and Repairs
ASHLEY, N. DAK.

2/21

Clerk: Date: 1927

Name: *Jacob Woeszner*

Address: Am't Rec'd.

1.	<i>McCormick Drill</i>	<i>215.00</i>
2.		
3.	<i>old Hooper</i>	<i>45.00</i>
4.		
5.		<i>770.00</i>
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TO CORRECT ERRORS, BRING THIS BILL
To the National Cash Register Co. - Dayton, Ohio.

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By Leona Neu

While thinking back to life on the farm of 50 years ago, I am reminded of the many changes which have occurred.

My father, Jacob J. Woeszner, bought a McCormick Deering 10-foot drill when he started farming in 1927. In the corner of the seed box, he recorded the date when he started field work every year. That was the drill he used until he retired from farming in 1947. As a little girl, I remember how

some of the seeds were cleaned on the kitchen table during the winter months, seeds which had been sorted from weed seeds. The seeds were bagged and stored until seeding time.

Later, Dad purchased a cleaning machine. It was hand-operated. As the crank was turned, shakers separated the seed kernels from weed seeds. He spent many hours in the grainery on mild winter days operating that machine.

I also remember a seed-treating machine we used. Wheat seed was treated with formaldehyde to prevent smut. The evening before,

water and formaldehyde were mixed. The seed was then poured into a large cone-shaped container on a stand. As the seed was released, it came upon a fan where the chemical dripped on. Moistening the seed kept several people busy, along with keeping the cone filled, the chemical-mixture filled, and the removal of the treated seed.

If, for some reason, there was no seeding the next day, the wheat seeds would swell from the moisture. Then adjustments had to be made on the drill.

My father would load bags of seed on the top of the drill's seed box, and would also set some bags

on the boards. Or someone would haul the seeds out to the field with the horse and buggy. That was often Mom's job. The bags were laid along the end of the field.

Little girls loved to take rides with their daddies. There was a steady, swinging feeling as the four horses kept step. Even after the grain was up, you could see the bunching of the grain.

As Dad drove back and forth in the field, he would always move to the side which was seeded so that he could see where to drive and steer the horses in a straight path.

It is hard to imagine the hours and days it took to work the few acres that were seeded then. There

Facing the wind on blustery days

were mild days when it was a pleasure to be outside to enjoy the warmth of the spring's sunshine. After the long winter, how refreshing it was to smell the freshly worked soil and to watch the sea gulls grabbing insects and worms!

But there were also cold, blustery days when you had to stand and face the wind's awesome power. During those times, Dad

would walk behind the drill to keep warm.

After a day in the field, there was more work to do when the farmer came home.

Horses had to be taken care of, unhitched, taken to the barn, unharnessed, fed, watered. The horses would roll themselves on the ground, over and over to relax or whatever.

Good old days????!□